

OPS-2 - ^{W.}STD

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION 	NO. 	
			DATE December 1987	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

4 January 1988
FBIS-5801-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--December 1987

I. GENERAL

A. Bureau FBN employees were pleased this month by PMCD's 11 December approval of a 19.5 percent pay raise retroactive to 19 July.

B. Monitor familiarization with WriteNOW word processing began on 21 December with the installation of an IBM PC in each of the monitorial sections; editor [redacted] associate editor [redacted] and communications operator [redacted] are supervising the training. Filing of items processed in soft copy got off to an extemporaneous start during a rash of New Year's speeches by regional leaders, easing the burden on a busy holiday-staffed communications section. Administrative and editorial computer use, including soft copy composition of the daily South African press review, is centralized at an IBM XT workstation in the Bureau's editorial area.

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C. The U.S. dollar fell against the rand in December, ending the month at R1.93 to \$1.00. The dollar has thus lost almost 30% against the rand in 18 months.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Amid continuing Angolan claims of intensified air and land attacks in the southern half of its territory, on 5 December South Africa, citing the "successful completion of certain tasks," announced the beginning of withdrawal of its troops from Angola. On 24 December, in response to a United Nations resolution calling for South African withdrawal from Angola, Foreign Minister Pik Botha rejected the Security Council's interpretation of the Angolan situation and accused the Angolan Government of "misrepresenting" the facts.

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2. South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha, reacting on 23 December to U.S. Congressional passage of the Rangel amendment, which rescinds tax breaks for U.S. companies operating in South Africa, declared that the livelihood of thousands of blacks was being "unscrupulously sacrificed." Terming the amendment a "deliberate effort to destabilize" South Africa economically, Botha predicted further depletion of already dwindling U.S. influence in the region.

3. In Zimbabwe, Prime Minister and ZANU-PF leader Robert Mugabe and the opposition ZAPU-PF's Joshua Nkomo signed a long-awaited party unity agreement on 22 December. Mugabe will retain his position as party secretary and has promised cabinet and diplomatic posts to ZAPU officials. The newly constituted ZANU aims to establish a one-party state along Marxist-Leninist guidelines. The merger paved the way for Mugabe's uncontested election on 30 December as Zimbabwe's first executive president.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. In a Bureau ceremony on 18 December, Deputy Chief [redacted] presented associate editor [redacted] communications operator [redacted] and monitors [redacted] and [redacted] with certificates of promotion.

2. New African languages monitor/trainee [redacted] entered on duty on 23 December.

IV. VISITS

A. Ambassador and Mrs. Harvey Nelson, attending the Bureau's Christmas party on 22 December, toured the Bureau and extended season's greetings to FBIS staff and their families.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. The Bureau Chief briefed new members of Mbabane's U.S. mission on FBIS operations at a 1 December post orientation held at the Ambassador's residence. Engineer [redacted] and editor [redacted] attended the session.

[redacted]
Chief, Swaziland Bureau

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